(a) whether it is a fact that two US companies have sued the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) on fraud charges; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) In November 1986, MMTC received summons alongwith a copy of the complaint from US District Court, Houston U.S.A. claiming about US $ 60 million alleging breach of a contract. The case was filed by M|s. Woodstock Energy Inc. with whom MMTC had never exchanged any correspondence. The MMTC, after consulting Attorney General and Solicitor General of India, has filed a written statement, refuting the allegations of the plaintiff.

Correspondence by GNLF with Government on Letter-Heads with the inscription of Gorkhaland

2174. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in its recent correspondence with the Union Home Ministry, the GNLF has used letter-heads bearing the heading Gorkha National Liberation Front, State Units, Darjeeling, Gorkhaland, Bharat; and

(b) if so, what is Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have made it abundantly clear to Shri Subash Ghising, President of the GNLF that the demand for creation of a separate State of Gorkhaland is unacceptable hence stands rejected.

Area under Forests

2175. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area of forest land remaining in each State and Union Territory and the percentage thereof in relation to non-forest land; and

(b) the minimum percentage of forest land required for maintaining ecological balance in Indian condition according to experts and the deficiency in this regard in each State and Union territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). The National Forest Policy 1952, envisages that the country as a whole, should aim at maintaining one third of its total land area under forests.

Though an extent of about 75 million hectares is legally called forests only about 36 million hectares has good tree cover. On this basis the deficiency for the whole of country is 73 million hectares. State-wise extents are given in the attached statement.

Statement

State-vise extent of the Forest cover in the Country

Name of the State/UT	Geographical area(Km²)	Legally notified forest area (Km²)	Extent of good forest cover	
			Sq. Km.	% of the geographical area of the country
1. Andhra Pradesh	276820	63771	28566	10.3
2. Arunachal Pradesh	83580	51540	51096	61.1
3. Assam	78580	30708	18415	23.4
4. Bihar	173880	29230	13490	7.7
5. Goa, Daman & Diu	3810	1053	763	20.0
6. Gujarat	195980	18777	7850	4.0
7. Haryana	44220	1685	43	0.1
8. Himachal Pradesh	55670	21325	9908	17 8
9. Jammu & Kashmir	222240	20892	12978	5.8
10. Karnataka.	191770	38644	14660	7.6
11. Kerala	38870	1122	7941	20.4
12. Madhya Pradesh	442840	15541	72174	16 3
13. Maharashtra	307760	6405	27244	8 8
14. Manipur	22360	15155	4670	20 8
15. Meghalaya	22490	8514	5749	25.5
16. Mizoram	21090	15935	2938	13 9
17. Nagaland	16530	8625	6379	38.6
18. Orissa	155780	59555	28573	18.3
19. Punjab	50360	2803	96	0.2
20. Rajasthan	342210	31151	3048	0 9
21. Sikkim	7300	2650	1867	25.6
22. Tamil Nadu	130070	22319	9516	7.3
23. Tripura	10480	6280	340	3.2
24. Uttar Pradesh	294411	51269	18876	6.4
25. West Bengal	87850	11879	3512	4.0
26. A & N Islands	8290	7144	6807	82.1
27. Chandigarh	114	6	—	—
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	490	203	187	38.2
29. Delhi	1490	42	—	—
30. Lakshadweep	30	—	—	—
31. Pondicherry	492	—	—	—
TOTAL	3287797	751846	357686	10.9